Appl. No. 09/732,353 Amdt, Dated June 23, 2004 Reply to Office action of March 24, 2004 Attorney Docket No. P12085-US1 EUS/J/P/04-3133

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 20, 23, 25-26, and 31-33; claims 19, 29-30, and 34-36 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 20-23, 25-26 and 31-33 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 25 and 32 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 19 has been canceled and the limitations of claims 19 and 24 have been incorporated with the allowable limitations of claim 25 and amended claim 25 is now independent. Claims 29 and 30 have been canceled and the limitations of these claims have been incorporated into the allowable limitations of claim 32. Amended claim 32 is also now independent. The remaining claims that depend from the respective independent claims contain the same allowable limitations. The Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments have placed the claims in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 19, 20, 23, 24, 26-29, 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Koistinen et al. (WO 99/21383 hereinafter, Koistinen). The Applicants have canceled claims 19, 24, 27-29, and 34 rendering the rejection of these claims moot. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the remaining claims.

Claims 20, 23 and 26 depend from newly independent claim 25 and contain the same allowable limitations of claim 25. Claim 33 depends from independent claim 32 and contains the same allowable limitations of claim 32. The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 21, 30, 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koistinen in view of Suvanen (US 6633536B1, hereinafter Suvanen). Claims 30, 35 and 36 have been canceled rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Claim 21 now depends from independent claim 25 and contains the same allowable limitations. The Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koistinen and Suvanen and further in view of Ekudden et al. (US 6122607, hereinafter Ekudden). Claim 22 now depends from independent claim 25 and contains the same allowable limitations. The Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koistinen in view of Ekudden. Claim 31 now depends from claim 32 and contains the same allowable limitations as claim 32. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 31.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for Claims 20-23, 25-26 and 31-33.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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